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ABSTRACT

In Adler's Theory of Individual Psychology the significance of birth order position in the family constellation depends on the interpretation given to it by the child, which in turn influences his character. This study surveyed the perceptions of middle children in large families. Subjects (N=13) were middle children in families of more than five children and an odd number of children, selected from referrals by researcher's relatives, friends, colleagues, and students. Subjects were mailed a questionnaire requesting demographic characteristics, level of education, occupational status, family interactions, and family members' perceptions with space for comments. Results showed that for the middle child respondents: (1) 85 percent perceived that they were most like one of their parents; (2) 85 percent had taken care of the youngest child; (3) 77 percent reported that one family member was picked on; (4) 38 percent reported having received the most time of their parents; and (5) 31 percent felt they got away with the most in their families. In general, results of the survey indicated that middle children from large families with odd numbers of children were content with their birth order position. Fourteen tables and the study instrument are appended. (ABL)

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THE PERCEPTIONS AND VIEWS

on

FAMILY INTERACTION AND RELATIONSHIPS

of

MIDDLE CHILDREN FROM LARGE FAMILIES:

An informal Mini Survey

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1986

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I. INTRODUCTION

The origin of this paper developed when I became familiar with Alfred Adler's theory of Individual Psychology.

Individual psychology has opened up a wide field for research examining the advantages and disadvantages for children with respect to the order of their birth in their family. Adler holds that the birth order position of each child in the family makes a difference in that each child will grow up in a "different"/new family situation/environment, since the growing experience or maturation process is not the same for any two children in a given family. Each child will adapt himself to his style of life as a result of his own peculiar circumstances (Adler, 1958, p. 144).

Often there is misunderstanding or misinterpretation regarding Adlerian classification according to birth order position. Thus the significance of birth order position, for Adler, in the family constellation depends on the interpretation given it by the child, which in turn influences his character. These early interpretations, Dreikurs reminds us, tend to become lifelong impressions (Tanner, 1971, p. 99).

The term family constellation as cited by Shulman and Nikelly, 1971, p. 35) is described as:

> ... the sociopsychological configuration of a family group. The personality characteristics and emotional distance of each person, age differences, order of birth, the dominance of submission of each member, the siblings, and the size of the family are all factors in the family constellation and affect the development of the personality . . . certain behavior types can be characterized by examining the individual's place in the constellation. THus, the first born, the second born, and the only child have certain characteristics which render their personality predictable in terms of attitudes, personality and traits and subsequent behavior (Sweeney, 1975, p. 9).

Upon reading the above passage, I started to wonder about and become interested in the effects of the family constellation upon children growing up in a large family. Thus, I designed an informal mini survey focusing on perceptions.

Of particular interest to me are the views held by the middle child in a large family. Much has been written about the first born, the second born, the youngest, and the only child; little has been written about the views of the middle child, regarding family life and relationships, in a large family. As a member of a large family I was interested in the answers to several questions regarding family life, interactions, relationships, perceptions and views held by the middle child from large families.

How does the middle child in a large family perceive his/her birth order position? The middle child, in families with three children, "acquires an added condition to their existence, a younger sibling" (Sweeney, 1975, p. 10).

> Often in families with three, the middle children feel squeezed in their position. They perceive themselves as singularly disadvantaged. They have few, if any advantages of the oldest youngster and now their position as baby has been supplanted. To help really convince them of their predicament, the oldest child often helps take care of the youngest, thereby establishing for themselves in ally. . . The oldest may be seen as "Bossy" towards the other children as well.
>
> The middle children will likely still move in directions opposite to the older youngster. They may be more independent, rebellious, sensitive, and overtly seek assurance of their place with the parents (Sweeney, 1975, p. 10).

Other questions regarding family life relationships in a large family worth considering are: Who gets/got away with the most? Is there someone in the family picked on? Who is mostly favored? Who is perceived to be most

like the parents? Do middle children take care of other siblings? Are middle children from large families the first to move away from home? Did middle children view their assigned tasks as less than, the same as, or more responsible than those assigned their siblings? Who are middle children friendliest with while growing up, and do these/those close ties continue today? And, who was/is counted on the most as perceived by middle children from large families?

II. METHOD

Data Collection Technique

The data collection technique was in the form of a survey questionnaire and anonymity was maintained. Its question design and format was formulated from Boynton, 1976, and consisted of two pages. The questions numbered twenty.

Some questions asked were directed toward gathering demographic characteristics, such as gender, age and birth order position. Other questions concerned levels of education achieved and current occupational/professional status. Several questions addressed specific interactions among, and perceptions of family members. Space was provided for comments and elaboration.

III. SUBJECTS

Selection Process

I expressed my research interest to relatives, friends, colleagues and students; I asked if they knew persons from a large family with odd numbers of children who would be willing to participate in my research as a survey respondent.

A large family is defined as having five or more children. Only families with odd numbers of children were considered as having a true middle child. The middle child in this survey is defined as follows:

the	3rd	child	in	a	family	of 5	children
	4th	"	"	"	"	" 7	"
	5th	"	"	"	"	" 9	"
	6th	"	"	"	"	" 11	"
	7th	"	"	"	"	" 13	"

Before completing the questionnaire subjects were screened to meet the following criteria: (1) a middle child as described above, (2) middle child and siblings are from the same marital union, and (3) there are no twins (multibirths) in the family of origin as middle children.

In response to my inquiry, I gathered 20 names and addresses. Each person was mailed a questionnaire and cover letter during March and April of 1985. A self addressed, stamped, return envelope was enclosed. Also the name of the person who suggested the subject's name was indicated. (See sample cover letter and questionnaire in Appendix).

Toward the end of May, follow up telephone calls were placed by me to persons who had suggested possible respondents in an effort to gather completed questionnaire. My effort was successful as four additional completed questionnaires were returned.

Of the 20 mailed, 15 were completed and returned; one was returned for "moved/no forwarding address" and four remain outstanding. Of the 15 completed and returned, two were rejected as non-qualifying. Those respondents were from families with eight and ten children respectively, and not from odd numbers of children families. Thus the population in this informal mini survey is comprised of 13 respondents. N = 13 unless otherwise indicated.

IV. RESULTS

Respondent Profiles

The profile of the 13 respondents include two males and 11 females representative of families with five, seven, nine and 11 children. There were no respondents from families representative of 13 children. Of the two males one is the fourth in a family of seven, and the other is the sixth in a family of 11. Of the 11 females: seven are the third child in families of five children; two are the fourth child in families with seven children, three are the fifth child in families with nine children, and one is the sixth child in a family of 11 children.

Nine sibling deaths were reported. These siblings losses include two as children, one as a young adult (under 25 years of age) and six mature adults (over 40 years of age.) In one instance, birth order position was effected when the two year old (the second child) died. These particular parents had an additional six children, and the respondent grew up as a middle child in a family of seven children. He was the fifth child, but held the actual birth order position of the fourth child.

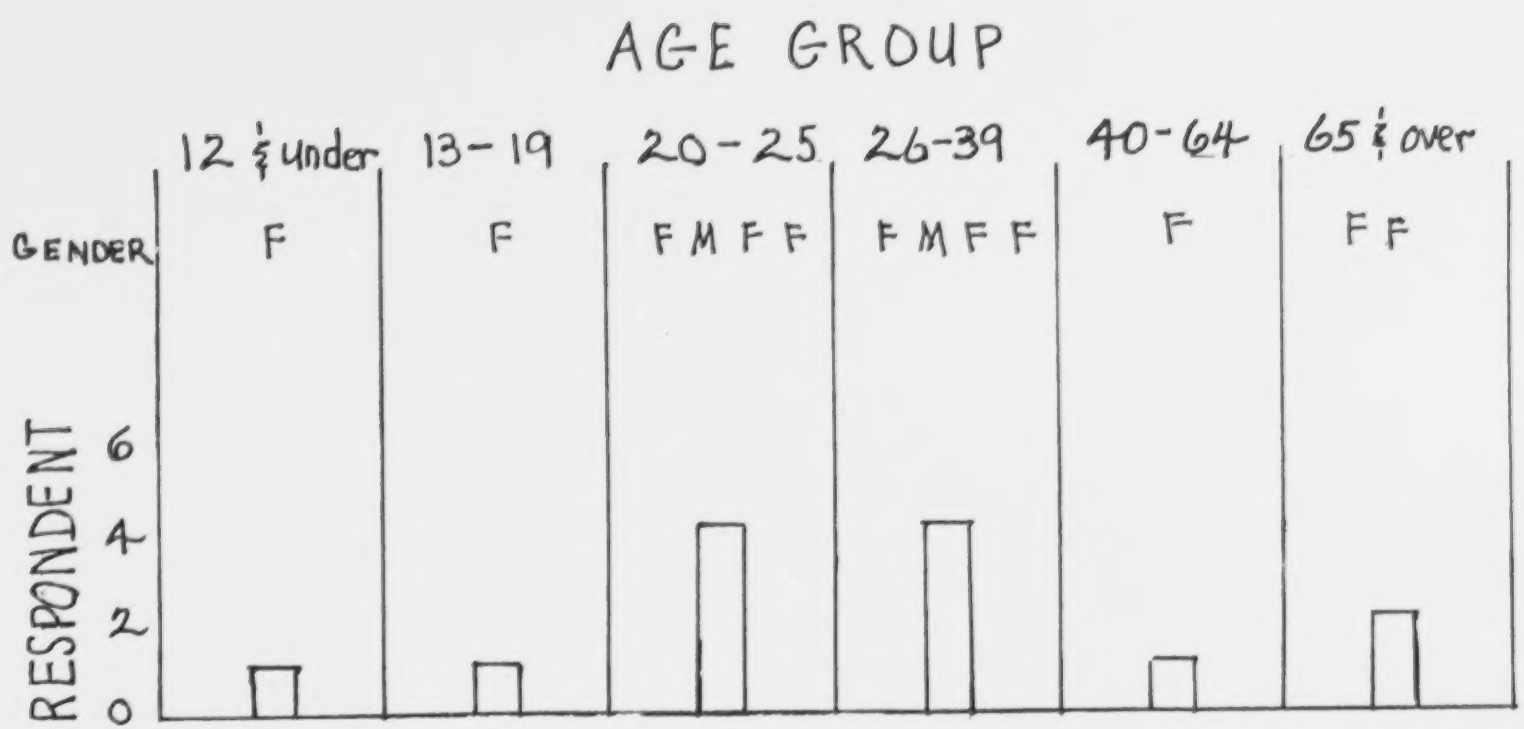
The educational, professional/occupational and marital status among the respondents is as follows. Educational achievements include one elementary school student; one attending high school; six have graduated from college; two have attended college, and three are presently attending graduate school.

Respondent's professional/occupational status are as follows: five students; three white collar workers and one blue collar worker; one homemaker; one religious, and two retired persons. Of the aforementioned 13 respondents four are married, two are widowed and seven are single.

The respondent's age ranged from a female 12 year old as the youngest respondent, to an 81 year old female as the oldest respondent. (See Figure 1 - Age, Gender, Respondent for graphic population distribution findings).

Figure 1

AGE, GENDER, RESPONDENT



IV. RESULTS (continued)

Findings

31% of middle child respondents viewed themselves to be the one who "got away with" the most. (See Table #1 for a complete breakdown of other siblings who were perceived as having "gotten away with" the most.)

A total of 38% of middle child respondents perceived themselves to be the child with whom their parents spent the most time. Of that total, 15% viewed that their mothers spent the most time with them, while 23% perceived that their fathers spent the most time with them. One respondent viewed this segment of the question not applicable, while two other respondents perceived that their fathers spent no time with any of their siblings. Another respondent wrote in that she viewed "her brother having polio was the reason that her mother spent the most time with him." (See Table #2).

77% of the respondents viewed that someone in their family of origin was/is picked on. Of the total 8% represents the middle child who viewed herself to be picked on. Another respondent wrote in: "we (children) pick on each other." (See Table #3).

Regarding who was or is mostly favored, 63% of middle child respondents perceived themselves to be mostly favored in their family of origin; 27% of those respondents viewed begin favored by their mother, while 36% perceived that their father's favored them. One respondent viewed this segment of the question not applicable. Two other respondents did not answer the question respectively, thus N = 11. (See Table #4).

In response to the question Who do you believe to be most like your parents? 85% of the respondents perceived themselves to be. Of that number 54% viewed themselves to be most like their other, while 31% perceived themselves to be most like their father. One respondent found this segment of the question not applicable. (See Table #5).

85% of the respondents reported taking care of the youngest child in their family of origin, while 15% of the respondents indicated that they did not take care of any sibling. (See Table #6). Oldest siblings were reported to have taken care of 55% of middle child respondents, while 18% of the respondents chose not to answer the question. Thus N = 11 (See Table #7).

Only 8% of middle child respondents reported being the first child to move away from home. Other respondents (15%) reported their move away from home to be in the sequence of the second and the third from their respective families, 15% were the fourth children to move away from home. Also, 15% of the respondents from families with seven children (4th child in their respective birth order position) each moved away from home in the sixth sequential order. Of the middle child respondents holding fifth birth order position in families with nine children, 15% were sequential moves away from home as the third and the fifth sibling respectively. 8% viewed the question as not applicable, while 23% represented respondents reported as not yet having moved away from home. (See Table #8).

58% of the respondents reported that their assigned tasks/chores to be as responsible as their sibling's tasks; 33% perceived their assigned tasks/chores to be more responsible, while 8% (one) viewed her assigned chores/tasks as less responsible than her brother's and sister's tasks. One respondent did not answer this question, thus N = 12. (See Table #9). Of the 13 respon-

dents, three was the average number of assigned tasks/chores reported. Males were assigned traditional chores such as gardening, shoveling snow, taking care of the dog, and taking out the garbage. Female assigned chores also included shoveling snow and coal. One respondent perceived and reported that her being 5'9" tall encouraged her parents to assign her heavy chores. Another female respondent wrote in that "being an escort" was one of her assigned chores. (See Table #10 for specific assigned chores/tasks.)

Regarding which sibling middle child respondents were/are friendliest with while growing up. 75% reported to be friendliest with their younger sibling immediately following their own birth order position. One respondent from a family of seven was friendliest with the fifth sibling in her family, while three respondents from families with nine children were friendliest with their sixth sibling with growing up. (See Table #11). One respondent did not reply, thus N = 12).

Today, 55% of the 75% aforementioned respondents reported remaining closest friends with their childhood sibling chum. In addition, new relationships have developed among middle children and their oldest and youngest siblings. As one respondent explained, "these relationships change drastically from time to time." (See Table #12 for details of other sibling relationships.) Two respondents did not answer this question therefore N = 11.

50% of the middle child respondents perceived themselves to be the person who was/is most counted on in their family of origin. One respondent did not reply, thus N = 12. (See Table #13 for more details.)

83% of the respondents expressed their satisfaction with their birth order position as the middle child in a large family. Of those respondents

75% perceived their middle child position as ideal. 17% viewed the first birth order position to be the ideal position, and the position they would select if given the choice. Their respective reason for selecting the first born position as ideal was as follows: (1) "The first is most responsible and is looked up to and isn't teased," and (2) "As a middle child I had the responsibilities of a first born, so I might as well have been."

Although one respondent included with the 10 respondents satisfied with their middle child birth order position, perceived the second born to be an ideal position, she wrote "... because parents have learned from the first, but would still be able to devote a lot of time to the second child." One respondent did not answer this question, therefore N = 12. (For a detailed breakdown see Table #14.)

A variety of reasons were written in as to why the middle child in families with odd numbers of children enjoy their birth order position. Below are those comments:

(1) "I feel I get more attention."

(2) "The oldest is experimented on, the youngest is always babied. I have a lot of leeway."

(3) "I like being the third child because I could get in on things that the older ones and younger ones were doing."

(4) "There is not as much pressure--less is expected or demanded emotionally."

(5) "Having two people to look up to and two people to look down to makes me feel safe, secure and loved."

(6) "More independent -- left along -- oldest is example for rest. Baby is followed."

(7) "I like to have older brothers and younger siblings."

(8) "I like the middle spot #5, especially now because I enjoy being one of the adult members, as well as being close to the younger siblings."

(9) "I'm happy where I am. (5th -- middle child)."

(10) "I'm not unhappy with my birth order and never was. I enjoyed my childhood and my large family."

V. SUMMARY

The outstanding findings from this informal mini survey of middle children from large families with odd numbers of children revealed that 85% of middle child respondents perceive that they are most like one of their parents respectively. Also 85% of the middle child respondents have taken care of the youngest child in their family of origin. Regarding their own birth order position 83% of the respondents are satisfied with their middle child birth order position.

77% of the respondents reported that there was/is a person in their family of origin who they perceive to be picked on. As youngsters growing up 75% of the respondents reported being friendliest with their younger sibling immediately following their own middle child birth order position.

The mostly favored child in their family of origin represented 63% of the respondent population in this informal mini survey.

Assigned tasks/chores were perceived by 58% of the respondents to be as responsible as those assigned to their brothers or sisters. Each respondent reported being assigned three r four tasks/chores.

55% of the respondents reported being friendly today with their childhood sibling pal. Oldest siblings were reported as being caretaker for 55% of the middle child respondents. The "most counted on" sibling represented 50% of survey respondents.

Parents spent the most time with 38% of middle child respondents. 31% of the respondents perceived themselves to be the one who "got away with" the most.

Middle child respondents who reported that nobody was picked on in their family of origin accounted for 23% of the survey population.

Next-to-the-oldest siblings were responsible for taking care of 18% of middle child respondents. Two (15%) of the respondents reported that they did not take care of any brother or sister.

Only 8% (one) respondent perceived that the person in their family of origin who was picked on was a middle child respondent. Middle children from large families with odd numbers of children do not tend to be the first to move away from home. Only 8% (one) of the respondents was the first to move away from their family of origin.

Interesting to note that respondents from families with more than five children appear to be enmeshed in their family of origin. For example, when asked to indicate who was counted on the most, respondents selected more than one sibling. (See Tables #5, 6, 11, 13 for respondent's, from families with seven, nine, and 11 children, other multiple selections.)

Middle children, as a whole, growing up in a large families with odd numbers of children as revealed in this survey perceive their birth order position to be unique. They were objective in their perception of family life relationships, as well as interpersonal interaction among its members. In turn their objectivity permits these middle children to have positive feelings about themselves and others.

Contrary to my initial anticipation, the results of this informal mini survey does not support my hypothesis that middle children from large families are dissatisfied with their birth order position; the findings of this survey indicates that middle children from large families with odd numbers of children are in fact content with their birth order position.

APPENDIX

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TABLE 1

QUESTION # 6. Circle who got away with the most (let off the hook) in your family of origin birth order position.

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION											R
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
5	2		3		2							7
7	1						1					2
9			1		1				1			3
11											1	1
TOTAL	3	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	1	0	1	13

R = Respondent

_ = Underscore indicates middle children respondent.

TABLE 2

QUESTION # 7. Which child did which parent spend the most time with?

MOTHER:

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	0	R
5	2	1	1	2	1								7
7	1			1									2
9							1	2	1				3*
11												1	1
TOTAL	3	1	1	3	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	1	13

FATHER:

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	0	N/A	R
5	2	1	2	1									1	7
7			1				1							2
9		1			1							1		3
11												1		1
TOTAL	2	2	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	13

0 = None
N/A = Not Applicable
__ = Underscore indicates middle child(ren) respondent(s).
note: *Respondent selected more than one birth order position.

TABLE 3

QUESTION #9 Circle below which person in birth order position who was/is picked on mostly in your family of origin.

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION											O	A	R
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
5		2	1	2								2		7
7			1				1							2
9		1		1								1		3
11													1	1
TOTAL	0	3	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	13

O = None

A = All

R = Respondent

__ = Underscore indicates middle child respondent.

TABLE 4

QUESTION #10 Which child in your family of origin was or is mostly favored?

MOTHER:

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	n/a	R
5	1		2	3	1								7
7				1		1							2
9		1	1									1	3
11												1	1
TOTAL	1	1	3	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	13

FATHER:

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	N/A	n/a	R
5	1	1	3	1								1		7
7						1	1							2
9	1			1									1	3
11													1	1
TOTAL	2	1	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	13

R = Respondent
n/a = No Answer
N/A = Not Applicable
_ = Underscore indicates middle child(ren) responden(s).

TABLE 5

QUESTION # 11 Who do you believe to be most like your parents (include yourself if appropriate)?

MOTHER:

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	R
5		1	4	1	1							7
7	1			1								2
9	1				2							3
11		1		1								1*
TOTAL	2	2	4	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	13

FATHER:

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	N/A	R
5			3	1	2							1	7
7					1		1						2
9	1			1			1						3
11	1		1		1	1	1	1					1*
TOTAL	2	0	4	2	4	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	13

N/A = Not Applicabe
___ = Underscore indicates middle child(ren) respondent(s).
R = Respondent
*Respondent indicated more than one birth order position.

TABLE 6

QUESTION #12 Which brother/sister did you take care of.

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION											0	R
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
5	2	2		3	7								7*
7							1					1	2
9							1	1	3				3*
11												1	1
TOTAL	2	2	0	3	7	0	2	1	3	0	0	2	13

0 = None

R = Respondent

*Respondent(s) indicated more than one birth order position.

TABLE 7

QUESTION #13 Did any sibling take care of you? If so, who?

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	N	N/A	n/a	R
5	3	1										1	1	1	7
7	1												1		2
9	2	1													3
11														1	1
TOTAL	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	13

N = No

N/A = Not Applicable

n/a = No Answer

R = Respondent

TABLE 8

QUESTION #14 Indicate using numbers under the birth order numnber the sequence in which you and your brother(s) and/or sister(s) have moved away from home.

BIRTH ORDER POSITION	SEQUENTIAL MOVE AWAY FROM HOME									N/A	FAMILY SIZE
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
	3	2									5
	2	1									5
	1	3									5
	1	2	3	4	5						5
										1	5
	4	5	2	3							5
	1	2	5	3							5
	2	1	3	7	4	5	6				7
	1	2	4	3	6	5	7				7
	1	2	4								9
	3	2	5	4	1	8					9
	1	3	2	4	5	6	7	8	9		9
	1	3	2	5							11

N/A = Not Applicable
__ = Underscore indicates middle children respondents.

TABLE 9

QUESTION #16 Do you feel the tasks you were/are assigned are/were: less than, same as, more responsible than your brother's or sister's assigned chores?

FAMILY SIZE	less than	same as	more responsible	n/a	R
5		4	3		7
7	1	1			2
9		2	1		3
11				1	1
TOTAL	1	7	4	1	13

R = Respondent

n/a = No Answer

TABLE 10

QUESTION #15 What tasks were/are you assigned?

CHORES ASSIGNED TO MIDDLE CHILDREN

	SIZE OF FAMILY				R
	5	7	9	11	
CHILD CARE babysit	4_f		2_f		6
HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE, INDOOR clean/dust/vacuum/housekeep/ take out garbage	5_f	1_m	1_f	1_m	8
HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE, OUTDOOR cut grass/shovel snow/coal/ rake leaves		1_m	1_f	3_m	5
KITCHEN AIDE food shop/help cook/ make lunches/peal vegies/ set/clear table/wash/dry dishes	8_f	2_f	5_f		15
LAUNDRY wash/dry/iron/mend/fold/ put away clothes		2_f	2_f		4
MISCELLANEOUS feed & walk dog/escort/ general helper/mother's helper/shopper	3_f	1_m	1_f		5

R = Respondent
f = female
m = male

TABLE 11

QUESTION #17 Among your siblings in your family of origin who are/ were you friendliest with (while growing up)?

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION											n/a	R
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
5	2			5									7
7	1				1		1						2*
9	1		1			3	1	1	1				3*
11												1	1
TOTAL	4	0	1	5	1	3	2	1	1			1	13

R = Respondent

n/a = No Answer

*Respondent(s) selected more than one birth order position.

TABLE 12

QUESTION #18 Today who are you closest to?

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION											n/a	R
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
5	1			4	1							1	7
7			1	1			1						2
9						2	1	1					3
11												1	1
TOTAL	1	0	1	4	1	2	2	1	0			2	13

n/a = No Answer

R = Respondent

TABLE 13

QUESTION #19 Who was/or is counted on the most?

FAMILY SIZE	BIRTH ORDER POSITION											n/a	R
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
5	2		5										7
7	2												2
9	1	1	1		1								3*
11												1	1
TOTAL	5	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	0			1	13

n/a = No Answer

R = Respondent

__ = Underscore indicates middle child(ren) respondent(s).

*Respondent(s) selected more than one birth order position.

TABLE 14

QUESTION #20 If you had a choice in your birth order position selection process, which birth order position do you view as ideal and which would you choose for yourself. Why?

		BIRTH ORDER POSITION											n/a	R
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
FAMILY SIZE	5	1		6										7
	7	1			1									2
	9					3								3
	11												1	1
TOTAL		2		6	1	3							1	13

R = Respondent

n/a = No Answer

__ = Underscore indicates middle children respondents

140-6 Bellamy Loop
Bronx, New York 10475

March 24, 1985

Dear

Allow me at this time to share with you who I am, why I am doing the enclosed survey, and how you can assist me.

I am Elena Hall. Presently I am a full-time graduate student at Iona College, Pastoral Counseling division, and a member of the Ryan Library faculty, Iona College. I expect to complete the necessary course requirements for an M.S. degree in Family and Marriage Counseling, June, 1986.

In fulfillment of a course requirement I am doing a survey. My particular interest is held for the middle child in a large family. Much has been written about the middle child in the average American family of three children. Thus I became eager to learn about the views of the middle child of family life relationships in a large family. While sharing my interest with my friends and relatives I asked if they knew of persons from a large family. _____ suggested you,as a possible person to support my research, as a survey respondent.

Enclosed is a questionnaire of twenty (20) questions. Will you please answer all the questions. In the event a question is not applicable write (NA).

A large family in this survey is defined as having five (5) or more children. The middle child is considered as follows:

the	3rd	child	in	a	family	of 5	children
	4th	"	"	"	"	" 7	"
	5th	"	"	"	"	" 9	"
	6th	"	"	"	"	" 11	"
	7th	"	"	"	"	" 13	"

Before completing the questionnaire you must meet the following criteria.

(1) Are you a middle child as described above?
(2) Are you and your siblings from the same marital union?
(3) There are no twins (multibirths) in your family of origin.

I thank you in advance for completing the questionnaire today and mailing it today in the self-addressed/stamped envelope.

Sincerely,

Elena C. Hall

PLEASE COMPLETE TODAY AND MAIL TODAY

My telephone numbers are (212) 379-4371 or (914) 633-2345 should you have any questions. Thank you!
Elena Hall

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1. Circle only your birth order number in your family of origin.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

1a. Under your circled birth order number write F if you are female or M if you are male.

1b. Above your circled birth order number write your year of birth.

1c. For each of your brother(s) and/or sister(s) write their year of birth above their birth order number in your family of origin. Indicate below their birth order number their sex M if male F if female.

1d. If any brother or sister is deceased draw an (X) through their birth order number and indicate year of death below your sibling's birth order number.

2. Circle the highest institution of education you presently are attending or have attended:

elementary school high school college 2 year 4 year

graduate school post-graduate school

3. Did you earn a degree and/or graduate? Circle: yes or no

4. Your primary occupation/profession is representative of: circle one

student white collar worker blue collar worker

homemaker religious unemployed (presently)

5. Circle if you are: married divorced widowed

separated single (never married)

6. Circle who got away with the most (let off the hook) in your family of origin birth order position.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

7. Which child did which parent spend the most time with? circle birth order position of sibling in your family of origin:

MOTHER: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

FATHER: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

8. Was or is someone in your family of orgin picked on?

YES NO If, no (circle no and move to question #10)

9. Circle below which person in birth order position who was/is picked on mostly in your family of origin.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

10. Circle which child in your family of origin who was or is mostly favored:

BY MOTHER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

BY FATHER 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

11. Circle who you believe to be most like your parents (include yourself if appropriate) in your family of origin birth order position.

MOST LIKE MOTHER: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

MOST LIKE FATHER: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

12. Circle which brother/sister you took/take care of.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

13. Did any sibling take care of you? If so who? Circle below which brother or sister in their birth order position.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14. Indicate using numbers <u>under</u> the birth order number the sequence in which you and your brother(s) and/or sister(s) have moved away from home.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

15. What tasks were/are you assigned? Use a noun or one or two words to describe. i.e. babysitter, dishwasher, table setter...

_____ _____ _____ _____

16. Do you feel the tasks you were/are assigned are/were

less than same as more responsible (circle one) than

your brother's or sister's assigned chores?

17. Among your siblings in your family of origin who are you friendliest with (circle birth order position)?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

18. Today who are you closest to? (Circle his/her birth order below)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

19. Circle who ... was or is counted on the most? (circle his/her birth order position in your family of origin)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

20. If you had a choice in your birth order position selection process, circle which birth order position you view as ideal and would choose for yourself.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 .

Why?_____

_____.

Thank you for completing this questionnaire today and mailing it today.

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